

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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**2003**

VII: COURIER  
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. ~~K~~ HGG-A-1119

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT  
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Lincoln

DATE MAY 25 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: GENERAL— K-Program

SPECIFIC—

There is being transmitted herewith to each addressee office one copy of a self-explanatory memorandum written by Graham L. Page to ESQUIRE. A third copy of this memorandum is being retained in the file covering the K-Program.

[ ~~CYRUS E. BURNETTE~~ ]

24 May 1954

CEB/sgl

Distribution:

2-Linc

2-Wash

1-files

Enclosures: one memorandum

~~SECRET~~ PBSUCCESS RYBAT  
CLASSIFICATION

2 MAY 1954

23 May  
1600 hours

Dear [ ]

This letter will serve to refresh your recollections of certain topics not yet adequately covered and others not yet broached:

1. We are curious to know significant and representative reactions among corps members to the shipment. Was it a booster to their pride and morale, strengthening the allegiance to the regime, or are they concerned about certain longrange implications of the event, such as the probability that iron curtain supplies are usually followed by iron curtain instructors and technical experts?
  2. Detailed Shipment Data. What items, in what quantities, in what state of repair. What about ammunitions? Did technicians come along?
  3. We are vitally interested in any info leading to the timely discovery of future shipments which - we know - are in the offing. Instruct [ ] to spare no effort (and no expense) to assure us early warning of such shipments. You can assure [ ] that the next time the shipment won't pass. Differences of opinion on that score have been ironed out and the consejo's views will prevail the next time.
  4. Delicately re-open "Castle-issue". Consejo still is and will continue to be bound by [ ] prohibition. But isn't it about time to sink personal differences and join in common cause which is essentially a Guatemalan cause? Tell [ ] that the US is seriously concerned lest a rapidly deteriorating situation result in a temporary eclipse of Guatemala behind the iron curtain, necessitating her "liberation" by the US. Consejo strongly feels Guats should pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Point out inconsistencies [ ] harping on need for Army unity and at same time deepening chasm between pro- and contra-Castle factions. A change in his attitude would not entail immediate change in the present setup, but would restore our freedom of action in determining at what time and to what extent Castle should be let in.
  5. Find out more about his "close friend". What forces does he command? What (active or passive) contribution could he make in a pinch? What are his feelings about Castle?
  6. Ask [ ] what he knows about ex-Colonel Guillermo FLORES? FYI: He is [ ] chief military aide and wields considerable influence. If [ ] expresses a favorable view, you are authorized to tell him that FLORES is one of the Junta's outstanding military figures. If [ ] reacts indifferently, drop the issue.
  7. Stress the important role played by [ ] Depict him as the Junta's leading political figure to whom Castle defers on all matters concerning political strategy. Throw in as aside that [ ] we had given you the impression that the consejo (off the record) unanimously back him for the Presidency, especially if it should turn out that he enjoys the trust of ranking militaries, such as [ ] or P. Carefully record [ ]'s reaction.
  8. Continue pressing for the identification of other trusted associates. Assure that no independent approaches are contemplated, but important the consejo be told. Illustrate this point by mentioning that the consejo was greatly heartened by seeing judgment regarding the "close friend" borne out. As a result the situation in the capital has already taken on a fairer complexion.
  9. Elicit [ ]'s views regarding "the Ambassador" without letting on about his intended use. Could he be relied upon to keep in strictest confidence overtures on the part of ranking Guat officers? Would [ ] trust him in an emergency?
  10. Any indications in which Guat is going to turn as result of the acceleration in discord with the US are of importance [ ] and should be able to pick up more than one cryptic remark. What are prevalent speculations regarding US policy in respect to the Guat situation.
  11. Tell [ ] the car situation is unsatisfactory securitywise and that he should get himself a private vehicle. We are willing to contribute to the tune of Qz 2000.--.
- So much for the present. Hope you spent a pleasant weekend in rustic contemplation.

yours as ever,

[ ]